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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 12, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON CHAFFETZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for Your ongoing presence and sustaining grace in us all and Your concern for our Nation. Continue to bless and inspire the Members of the people's House.

May they be encouraged in the movement that has occurred, and may the hopes and prayers of the American people, and indeed the world, that a break in our current impasse may be imminent be fulfilled.

Forgive our failures, our lack of faith. May the good intentions of all acting in this House be rewarded by solutions to our struggles that benefit our Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAKE THE BARRICADES OF CONSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION DOWN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Mall and the memorials on the Mall are public places open 24 hours a day. The Park Service has closed them, using the excuse of the shutdown. But the Park Service discriminates who may exercise the First Amendment and who may not. It allowed a free speech immigration rally on the Mall but denies people access to the World War II Memorial. This is arbitrary action, thus constitutionally unlawful.

The Park Service forgets also that the First Amendment includes the right of the people to peaceably assemble. The Supreme Court sometimes limits the First Amendment by citing a compelling State interest, even though the First Amendment doesn't really give that exception.

The Government's compelling State interest here: lack of money. Does this mean any time the government claims it has no funds, it can shut down the

First Amendment and deny the right to peaceably assemble? I think not.

This excuse is ludicrous, unlawful, arbitrary, and in practice, it discriminates. The First Amendment was written to prevent this very type of action by government.

Let the people assemble. Take the barricades of constitutional oppression down.

And that's just the way it is.

IMPACTS OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on House Republicans to end the Federal Government shutdown.

The shutdown is causing significant negative impacts on our economy, jobs, and consumer confidence across our country. The number of people applying for unemployment benefits jumped by 66,000 this week. Local economies across our Nation are losing \$76 million a day from people not able to visit our Nation's parks. Just in one location, the closing of Zion National Park in Utah has cost the surrounding community over \$3.5 million in lost visitor spending.

The Head Start program already has turned away over 7,000 children across this country. U.S. consumer confidence has deteriorated in October to its weakest in 9 months, since the first Federal shutdown over 17 years ago. The Federal shutdown is stalling almost 130 highway and bridge projects in 35 States, which means lost jobs.

Mr. Speaker, let's end this uncertainty for our Nation. Let's stop the battering of jobs in this economy. Bring a clean continuing resolution to the floor and reopen the government of the United States.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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